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THE
CAMBRO-BRITON.

JUNE, 1821.

NULLI QUIDEM MIHI SATIS ERUDITI VIDENTUR, QUIBUS
NOSTRA IGNOTA SUNT. *CICERO de Legibus.*

THE TRIADS.—No. XX.

—•—
TRIADS OF THE ISLE OF BRITAIN*.

XCVII. THE three Powerful Swine-herds of the Isle of Britain : the first was Pryderi, the son of Pwyll Pen Anwn, who kept the swine of Pendaran Dyved, his foster-father ; and it was in the valley of Cuch in Emlyn, that he kept them ; the second was Coll ab Collvrewi, who kept the sow of Dallwaran Dabllen, that came burrowing as far as the headland of Penwedig in Cornwall, and, there going into the sea, she came to land at Aber Tarogi in Gwent Iscoed, and Coll ab Collvrewi having his hand in the bristles whithersoever she went, on the sea, or on the land ; and at Wheat-field in Gwent she dropped three grains of wheat, and three bees ; and ever since there have been the best wheat and honey in Gwent ; and from Gwent she travelled into Dyved, and there, at Llonis Llonwen, she laid a grain of barley and a pig ; and from that time the best barley and swine have been in Dyved ; afterwards she proceeded as far as Arvon, and in Lleyn she laid a grain of rye ; and ever since the best rye has been in Lleyn and Eivionydd ; and on the skirt of the ascent of Cyverthwch, she laid a wolf cub and an eagle chick ; and Coll gave the eagle to Brynach, the Gwyddelian, of Dinas Faräon ; and the wolf he gave to Menwaed, the lord of Arllechwedd,—and there is much talk about the wolf of Brynach and the eagle of Menwaed ; and, from thence going to the Maen Du in Arvon, she there laid a kitten, which Coll ab Collvrewi threw into the Menai ; and that was the Palug Cat, that became afterwards a molestation to the Isle of Mon. The third was Trystan ab Tallwch, who kept the swine of March, the son of Meirchion, whilst the swine-herd went

* Arch. of Wales, vol. ii. pp. 71—75.

on a message to Epyllt, to desire an interview with her; and Arthur, Marchell, Cai, and Bedwyr, were the four, on the look out for an opportunity, but they were not able to get so much as one pig, by gift nor by purchase, by deceit, nor by force, nor by stealth. They were thus called the powerful swine-herds, because it was not possible to gain or prevail over them for one of the swine that they kept, but they restored them with their full increase to those who owned them.

[The original text of this Triad, as to Pryderi, is—Pryderi, the son of Pwyll Pendaran Dyved, who kept his father's swine, while he was in the unknown world, which appears to be incorrect. It has therefore been made to agree with Triads xxx of the first series, and lvi of the second series. The second series has an addition to the account of Coll, that he tended the swine of Dallwyr Dallben in the valley of Dallwyr, in Cernyw, and one of the swine was with young, which had the name of Henwyn, and there was a prophesy that it would be worse for the Isle of Britain from that gestation; and therefore, Arthur assembled the host of the Isle of Britain, and proceeded to endeavour to destroy it. The other Triads say, that the sow laid a grain of barley and of wheat at Llovion, or Llonwen, in Dyved. Triad lvi for Brynach has Bread, a prince of the North; and respecting the cat thrown into the Menai, it has this addition.—And the sons of Palug in Mon reared it, for evil to them; for it was the Palug cat, which was one of the three chief molestations bred in Mon: the second was Daronwy; and the third was Edwin, king of England.—This Triad is made up of traditions, so worded as to be now inexplicable. Triad lvi in page 98 of this volume, throws some light on Coll, the son of Collvrewi, from which it may be inferred, that the sow was a ship, that brought grain and some animals to Britain, not known here before. The particulars, here related concerning Pryderi, are also recorded in the Mabinogion in the tale of Math ab Mathonwy, of which a short account may be seen in page 32 of this volume.]

xcviii. Three men with their progeny, who were consigned to everlasting disgrace and disfranchisement, and who could not be otherwise than in the condition of slaves: the first was Avarwy ab Ludd, who invited the Romans first into this Island, in the train of Iwl Caisar their emperor, and gave them land in the Isle of Taned; the second was Gwrtheyrn Gwrthenau, who invited the Saxons first into this island, as auxiliaries to him in his usurpation, and gave them land in the Isle of Taned—and may

evil befall whoever gives land to strangers in that island ! And he intermarried with Rhonwen, the daughter of Hors ; and to the son that he begat of her, called Gotta, he gave, by usurpation, the monarchy of the Isle of Britain ; and through that cause the Cymry lost the sovereignty of the Isle of Britain ; the third was Medrawd, the son of Llew ab Cynvarch, who held the sovereignty of the Isle of Britain, under the title of regency, whilst Arthur was opposing the men of Rome beyond the Mountain of Mynnau, when they would return as a molestation to this island, wherein the best of Arthur's men were slain ; and, when Medrawd heard this, he joined himself with the Saxons, and brought on the battle of Camlan, where Arthur with his men were killed, only three escaping ; and thence the Saxons became a prevailing molestation upon the sovereignty of the Isle of Britain, killing and driving away such of the nation of the Cymry as did not join with them ; and there were only the tribes of the country of Wales that maintained an opposition to the molestation of the Saxons ; the men of Rome also confirming privilege and lands to the Saxons in the Isle of Britain, as if one intruding nation identified itself with the other, until it befel the men of Rome in the manner that envy consumed itself by the coming of the black molestation upon them.

[Triads xci of the first and vi of the second series agree generally with the above, with the addition of some particulars in the Welsh Chronicles being incorporated with the latter Triad. The substance of the account in the above Triad appears also in Triads xxiv and xxv, in pages 171, and 201 of vol. i. of this work.—The name of *Mynydd Mynnau*, the Mountain of Peaks, is understood to imply the Alps.]

xcix. The three Amorous Gallants of the Isle of Britain : first, Caswallawn ab Beli, for Flur, the daughter of Mygnach the Dwarf, who, to obtain her, went as far as the land of Gascony, against the men of Rome, brought her away, and slew 6000 of the Cæsarians, and to avenge which insult it was, that the men of Rome came to the Isle of Britain ; the second was Trystan, the son of Tallwch, for Epyllt, the daughter of March ab Meirchion, his uncle ; third, Cynon, for Morrudd, the daughter of Urien Reged.

[Triad liii of the first series is thus—Caswallawn, the son of Beli for Flur, the Daughter of Mygnach Gôr ; and Trystan, the son of Tallwch, for Epyllt, the wife of March Meirchiawn, his uncle ; and Cynon ab Clydno Eiddyn, for Morvydd, the daughter of Urien. This Triad is not in the second-series. Notices of

Caswallawn may be seen in the former volume, pages 87 and 169. **Trystan** and **Cynon** lived in the sixth century; the former is commemorated in a preceding Triad in this Number.]

c. The three Bull Elves of the Isle of Britain: the Elf of **Gwidawl**; the Elf of **Llyr Merini**; and the Elf of **Gwrthmwlwledig**.

[Triad **LXIX** of the first series agrees with the above; but Triad **XLIV** of the second series has Stag Elves for Bull Elves.—What could have been meant by these elves is left to the readers imagination.]

ci. The three Sylvan Elves of the Isle of Britain: the prominent Elf; the yellow Elf; and the Elf of **Ednyvedawg** the Amorous.

[Triad **LXX** of the first series, for **Melen** and **Melan**, yellow, has **Melw**, as a different reading; and Triad **XLV** of the second series, for **Banawg**, prominent, has **Mānawg**, spotted.—This Triad is equally mysterious with the preceding one.]

cii. The three Viragoes of the Isle of Britain: **Llewai**, the daughter of **Seithwedd Seidi**; and **Maderai Badellvawr**; and **Rhorai Vawr**, the daughter of **Usber Galed**.

[Triad **LXIV** of the first and **xviii** of the second series agree with the above. There are no other notices of these viragoes, by which their history can be ascertained.]

ciii. The three Chaste Damsels of the Isle of Britain: **Trywyl**, the daughter of **Llyngesawl Law Hael**; **Gwenvron**, the daughter of **Tudwal Tudglyd**; and **Tegau Eurvron**, who was one of the fair ladies of the court of **Arthur**.

[Triad **LIV** of the first series names the damsels—**Traul Divevl**, **Gwenvadon**, and **Tegau Eurvron**. The Triad is not in the second series.—The last of these chaste damsels lived in the court of **Arthur**; the history of the other two is uncertain.]

civ. The three Chaste Wives of the Isle of Britain: **Arddun**, the wife of **Catgor ab Collwyn**; **Eviliau**, the wife of **Gwydr Drwm**; and **Emerchred**, the wife of **Mabon ab Dewain Hen**.

[In Triad **LV** of the first, and **XLVII** of the second series, **Collwyn** called **Colwyn** and **Gorolwyn**; and in the latter **Eviliau** and **Dewain** are named **Eneilian** and **Dewengan**.]

cv. The three Unchaste Wives of the Isle of Britain, who were the three daughters of **Culvynawyd Prydain**: first, **Esyllt Vygwen**, the mistress of **Trystan ab Tallwch**; second, **Penarwen**, the wife of **Owain ab Urien**; third, **Bun**, the wife of **Flamddwyn**.

[Triad LVI of the first series agrees with the above; but it is not in the second series.]

CVI. The three Sprightly Ladies of the Isle of Britain: Angharad Tonvelen, the daughter of Rhydderch Hael; Annan, the daughter of Maig Mygedwas; and Perwyr, the daughter of Rhun Ryseddawr.

[Triad LXXIV. of the first series, for Annan, Mygedwas, and Perwyr, has Anan, Mygotwas, or Mogotwas Aneirin, and Penwyr; and this Triad is not in the second series.]

CVII. The three Fair Ladies of the Isle of Britain: Gwèn, the daughter of Cywryd ab Crydon; Creirwy, the daughter of Ceridwen; and Arianrod, the daughter of Don.

[Triad LXXIII. of the first series agrees with the above, with the different reading, for Ceridwen, of Caridwen the Hag, the wife of Tegid. This Triad is not in the second series.—The names in the five last Triads are often mentioned by the ancient bards, and in the Mabinogion.]

CVIII. The three Useless Bards of the Isle of Britain: first, Arthur: second, Cadwallawn ab Cadvan; and Rhyhawd ail Morgant Morganwy.

[Triad XVIII of the first, and IX of the second series agree with the above.]

CIX. The three chief Christian Bards of the Isle of Britain: Merddin Emrys; Taliesin Ben Beirdd; and Merddin ab Madawg Morvryn.

[Triad XCII of the first series agrees with the above; but it is not in the second series.]

CX. The three Gold Shoemakers of the Isle of Britain: first, Caswallawn ab Beli, when he went as far as Gascony to obtain Flur, the daughter of Mygnach Gor, who had been seduced and carried thither to Caisar the emperor, by one called Mwrchan the Thief, king of that country, and friend of Iwl Caisar, and Cadwallawn brought her back to the Isle of Britain; second, Manawydan ab Llyr Llediaith, when he was as far as Dyved laying restrictions; third, Llew Llaw Gyfes, when he was along with Gwdion, the son of Don, obtaining name and arms from Arianrod, his mother.

[Triads LXXVII of the first, and LVIII of the second series are this.—Caswallawn ab Beli, when he went as far as Rome to fetch Flur; and Manawydan, the son of Llyr, when he was as far as Dyved; and Llew Llaw Gyfes, when he and Gwydion were obtaining name and arms from Arianrod his mother.—The Mabi-

nogion of Manawydan and of Math ab Mathonwy explain this Triad : therein it is described that they went, to obtain their objects, disguised as shoemakers.]

CXI. Three Royal Domains, that were established by Rodri Mawr in Wales : first, Dinevwr ; second, Aberfraw ; third, Mathraval. There was a prince wearing a diadem in each of the three dominions ; and the oldest of the three princes, whichever of them it might be, was to be the sovereign ; that is to say, King of all Wales ; and the other two obedient to his word, and his word imperative upon each one of them ; and he was chief of law and chief elder in every conventional session, and in every movement of country and nation.

[The events, commemorated in this Triad, are recorded in the histories of Wales. The division of the country into three provinces, as here mentioned, took place about the year 843, when Rhodri Mawr, or the Great, succeeded to the throne. Upon his death, about thirty years afterwards, the three provinces were divided amongst his three sons, Anarawd, Cadell, and Mervyn.]

This collection of Triads contains 17 more, which, as they relate to Arthur, and form a part of a larger class upon the same subject, are omitted here, as they may appear on some future occasion. At the end of this copy of Triads is a memorandum, of which the following is a translation :—

“These Triads have been extracted from the book of Caradawg of Nant Carvan, and from the book of Ieuan Brechva, by me, Thomas Jones of Tregaron ; and these are all that I could obtain out of three hundred. 1601.”

THE WISDOM OF CATWG.

APHORISMS ON STRENGTH*.

The strength of the learned is his exertion :

The strength of a teacher is his arrangement :

The strength of the wise is his reason :

The strength of the discreet is his consideration :

The strength of the ingenious is his sciences :

The strength of the brave is his courage :

The strength of a host is his courtesy :

* Arch. of Wales, vol. iii p. 60. Another collection of “Aphorisms on Strength” was inserted in the former volume, page 129, from which, however, this differs in most particulars.